

SUMMARY

The above Amendment and following Remarks are responsive to the points raised in the October 30, 2003 Office Action. In the Office Action, claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Urben (U.S. Patent No. 5,562,739). Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Soane et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0013368 A1). Upon entry of this Amendment, claim 1 will have been amended and claims 2 and 3 will have been canceled. Claim 1 will be pending in this application. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

REMARKS

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph:

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended claim 1 to further define that which is claimed such that the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention is distinctly claimed.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 (b):

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Urben* (U.S. Patent No. 5,562,739).

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP 2131 quoting Verolegal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection noting that *Urben* fails teach each and every limitation in newly amended claim 1. Claim 1 has now been amended such that the PEG formulation includes an acid catalyst and a resin. *Urben* does not teach or suggest that the PEG formulation may include a catalyst and resin. *Urben* does not teach the claimed catalytic, cross-linking process whereby the resin and polyethylene glycol are bonded to the fibers of the fabric. Additionally, *Urben* teaches that the curing reaction may occur at ambient temperatures. Col 3, Lns. 42-44. *Urben* does not teach a PEG formulation containing an acid catalyst and resin, thus *Urben* does not teach that the PEG formulation must be heated to complete a catalytic reaction for bonding the formulation as claimed in the present application. *Urben* fails to teach each and every element in newly amended claim 1, thus the claim is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102 (e):

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Soane et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0013368 A1).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for reasons similar that stated above. *Soane et al.* fails to teach or suggest a PEG formulation containing an acid catalyst and resin for bonding the resin and polyethylene glycol to a fabric. Furthermore, *Soane et al.* teaches that the process takes place preferably at room temperature. *Soane et al.* fails to teach the claimed temperature range of the present application. Applicants respectfully

content that claim 1 is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) since *Soane et al.* fails to teach each and every element in newly amended claim 1.

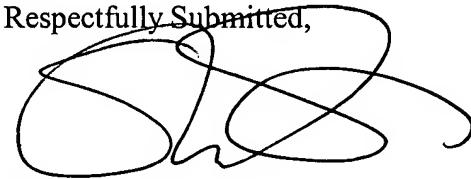
CONCLUSION

Claim 1 is allowable and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding the foregoing Amendment and response, he is invited and urged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0528.

Respectfully Submitted,



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